

Bonny Amemiya
1942-C Lusitana Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone : 808-479-1454

RECEIVED
MAR 21 7 56 AM '12
CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

TO: HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ernest Martin, Chair
Ikaika Anderson, Vice Chair

LOCATION: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

RE: Bill 10 Relating to the use of bags provided to customers

I am opposed an outright ban on plastic bags in the City and County of Honolulu.

Instead, I **support a fee on all single use bags (paper and plastic)** as a means of encouraging consumers to change their behavior and reduce the use of both paper and plastic single use bags.

A fee on single use bags is a good solution simply because it gives people the freedom to choose.

A fee reminds consumers that if they choose single use bags, there is a direct economic impact to them as well as the environment. A fee is assessed on only those who use single use bags; those who are thoughtful enough to bring reusable bags will avoid the fee.

A ban on plastic bags alone will encourage consumers to shift from plastic to paper. An increased in demand for paper bags is more detrimental to our natural resources and the environment than plastic and ultimately results in higher costs being passed on to all consumers, not just those who use paper.

In neighboring counties where plastic bags have been banned, there is evidence to show that there has been a marked increase in the use of paper bags, adding not only to the cost on the environment (the carbon footprint for manufacturing a paper bag is far larger than plastic), but to the consumer (the cost of paper bags is significantly higher

than that of plastic and that cost will ultimately be passed back to all consumers in the form of higher prices.)

If Honolulu County takes a bold step and supports a fee, I believe it will be recognized for being proactive and applying a thoughtful solution that preserves and protects our natural resources. For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request that you support a fee based solution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.